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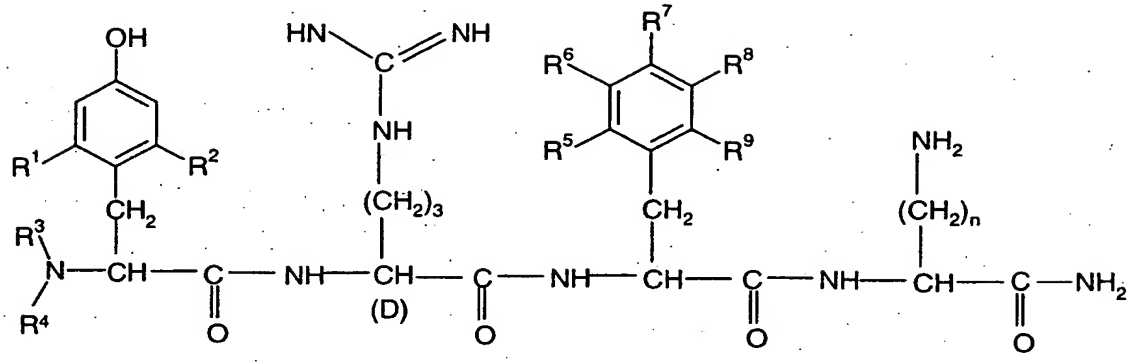
Claims

1. A compound of the formula I



I

wherein

$\mathbf{R^1}$ is selected from

(i) linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl;

(ii) C_1-C_6 alkoxy;

$\mathbf{R^2}$ is selected from

(i) hydrogen;

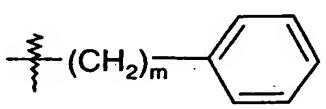
(ii) linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl;

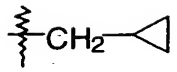
(iii) C_1-C_6 alkoxy;

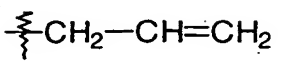
$\mathbf{R^3}$ and $\mathbf{R^4}$ is each and independently selected from

(i) hydrogen;

(ii) linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl;

(iii)  wherein m = 1-3;

(iv)  ; and

(v)  ;

R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8 and R^9 is each and independently selected from

(i) hydrogen;

(ii) halogen, where "halogen" encompasses chloro, fluoro, bromo and iodo; and

(iii) linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl; and

n is an integer of from 1 to 5;

as well as pharmaceutically and pharmacologically acceptable salts thereof.

2. A compound of formula I according to claim 1, wherein

R^1 is a linear C_1-C_6 alkyl;

R^2 is a linear C_1-C_6 alkyl or hydrogen;

R^3 and R^4 is each and independently selected from a straight C_1-C_6 alkyl or hydrogen;

R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8 and R^9 is each and independently selected from

(i) hydrogen;

(ii) halogen, where "halogen" encompasses chloro, fluoro, bromo and iodo;

(iii) linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl; and

n is an integer of from 1 to 5.

3. A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R^1 is CH_3;
R^2 is hydrogen or CH_3;
R^3 and R^4 are both hydrogen; and
R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8 and R^9 are all hydrogen; and

n is 4.

4. A compound according to claim 1, which compound is selected from anyone of

H-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH_2;
H-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-Orn-NH_2;
H-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe-A_2bu-NH_2;
H-Mmt-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH_2;
H-Dmt-D-Arg-Phe(p-F)-Lys-NH_2; and
Dmt(NMe)-D-Arg-Phe-Lys-NH_2.

5. A compound according to any one of the previous claims, in form of its hydrochloride salt, acetate salt or trifluoroacetate salt.

6. A compound according to any of claims 1-5 for use in therapy.

7. A compound according to claim 6, wherein the therapy is pain management.

8. A compound according to claim 7, wherein the pain is labor pain.

9. Use of a compound according to formula I of claim 1, for the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of pain.

10. Use according to claim 9, wherein the pain is labor pain.

11. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of the formula I according to claim 1 as an active ingredient, in admixture with one or more pharmacologically and pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

12. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 11, suitable for administration intrathecally, epidurally, intramuscularly, and intravenously.

13. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 12, wherein the intravenous administration is by infusion.

14. A process for the preparation of a compound of the formula I according to claim 1 by means of solid-phase synthesis, wherein the coupling step in which a protected amino acid is added to the growing peptide chain is performed in an inert solvent using a coupling reagent.

15. A method for the treatment of a subject suffering from pain, whereby an effective amount of a compound of the formula I of claim 1, is administered to a patient in need of pain relief.

16. A method for treatment according to claim 15, wherein the pain is labor pain.